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ume is perhaps hardly as interesting as the first—we cannot exactly say why, unless it be that the first volume was simply inimitable. Perhaps the author dwells longer on the more descriptive parts of his work and less on personal adventure. The book will, however, bear very attentive reading, and is exceedingly instructive in the light it throws upon the strange peoples and countries visited by our adventurous traveler. The feat of making the circuit of the globe after this solitary fashion, and on this peculiar steed, was a right brave one, and is not spoiled by egotism in the telling. One hardly knows which most to admire—the modesty of the historian or the pluck of the traveler. Mr. Stevens seems to have a physical constitution of the very best, and in point of ready tact and resource proves himself to be a prince among lovers of adventure. His coolness and nerve, no less than his patience and good temper, were often sorely tried, but were seldom, if ever, found wanting. The worst part of his experiences befell him in China, where he came very near being mobbed, and where he found very little indeed to awaken admiration or tempt him to loiter. Japan proved to be a perfect contrast to the Celestial Empire, and his journey through that interesting country was a pleasure excursion from beginning to end. Indeed, he almost doubts whether the Japs can be made happier or better by European civilization. “Happy people! happy country! Are the Japs acting wisely or are they acting foolishly in permitting European notions of life to creep in and revolutionize (their country)? Who can tell: Time alone will prove. They will get richer, more powerful, and more enterprising . . . but wealth and power and the buzz and rattle of machinery and commerce do not always mean happiness.”

All musical people and many others will welcome the publication of these letters of Mendelssohn to his friends, the Moscheles, which have already, we gather, appeared in *Scribner's Magazine*, but which, as they are now presented in substantial book form, are embellished by portraits and other pictures, and also by many fac-similes of musical scores and original compositions. The work has been done, together with the translations, by Felix Moscheles, son of the distinguished tutor of Mendelssohn. Particulars are also given of the closing scenes of the life of the great composer. The book will prove a rich addition to every musical library.\*

Some very important principles are wisely and temperately discussed in Dr. Charles Elam's treatise,† under the modest title of “A Physician's Problems.” The problems are, indeed, not only those of a physician, seeing that all humanity is concerned in their solution. What they are may be gathered from the headings of the various chapters: Natural Heritage, Degeneration in Man, Moral and Criminal Epidemics, Body and Mind, Illusions and Hallucinations, Somnambulism, Revery and Abstractions. The author is not always concise and clear, but the essays abound in good things of special interest to those who believe in the possibilities lying before the race of man under certain physical and moral conditions.

## II.

### BOOKS ON NATURAL HISTORY.

AMONG the recent issues of “Appleton's International Scientific Series” we note some valuable books; indeed, there is scarcely one member of the series so

\* “Letters of Felix Mendelssohn to Ignaz and Charlotte Moscheles.” Translated and edited by Felix Moscheles. Illustrated. Ticknor & Company.

† “A Physician's Problems.” By Charles Elam, M. D., M. R. C. P. Lee & Shepard.

far which does not possess strong claims to attention, and is not calculated to be of great service to lovers of science. Sir John Lubbock is always profound and yet clear and interesting in his special department, and in this volume on "Animal Instincts"\* he has gathered together an array of facts and observations of the greatest interest and significance. He infers that the sensations of other animals differ in many ways from those of mankind, their organs of sense being sometimes constructed on different principles and situated in very unexpected places. "There are animals which have eyes on their backs, ears in their legs, and sing through their sides." Very little is positively known, of course, though on some points, such as in the cases of the organs of hearing and sight, we have very full information as to their structure. Investigations, therefore, extending down to the very smallest minutæ are important, and throw light upon many questions of far-reaching philosophy. On the ant, Sir John says that during many years of close observation, he has never on any occasion seen anything like a quarrel between any two ants belonging to the same community, while on the other hand, every community of ants is hostile to every other. "Some species, indeed, are more intolerant of strangers than others; but as regards most species of ants, it may be said that if an individual be taken from its own nest and introduced into another, even though belonging to the same species, it will be at once attacked and driven out." This shows conclusively that the ants of a community recognize one another. How do they do this? It has been suggested that each nest—and there are often half a million of ants in a nest—has a kind of signal or password. To test this, Sir John took a number of ants, half from one nest and half from another, and made them very drunk, so as to become insensible. He then marked them with spots of different colors, so as to distinguish the two lots, and put them on a table near where some ants belonging to the nest from which one-half of them had been taken, were feeding on some honey. The table was surrounded by a moat containing water, to prevent the ants from wandering away. The sober ants were rather puzzled; but after examining the intoxicated individuals, they picked up the strangers and threw them into the ditch, while they carried off their own friends into the nest, where, no doubt, they slept off the effects of the spirit. This experiment seeming to show that there was no signal or password, Sir John made another trial. He took a few ants from two different nests, A and B, and placed them together. At first they were rather shy, but after awhile fraternized. After living amicably for three months he put two of the ants which had been taken from nest A into nest B, where they were instantly attacked and driven out. The ants belonged all to the same species. This experiment was repeated under different circumstances, and the conclusion he comes to is that ants recognize each other by the sense of smell. "Not even six months of close companionship under precisely similar conditions will so far assimilate the odor as to lead to confusion." He says: "If the recognition is due in any degree to this cause, the odor is probably an hereditary characteristic. There are reasons for supposing that if ants are more or less soaked in water, they are no longer recognized by their friends, but are attacked. The book contains not only many interesting points, such as the foregoing, but an abundance of scientific data, the results of prolonged and patient study and experiment.

Sir J. William Dawson's work on the "Geological History of Plants"† has special interest and value as a comparatively new field of research. The author explains

\* "On the Senses, Instincts, and Intelligence of Animals, with Special Reference to Insects." By Sir John Lubbock. D. Appleton & Co.

† "The Geological History of Plants." By Sir J. William Dawson. D. Appleton & Co

his conception of the book. Born in a district rich in fossil plants he began as a boy to make collections, and this continued for nearly half a century. "Now in the evening of his days he thinks it right to endeavor to place before the world a summary of facts, and of his own matured conclusions,—feeling, however, that nothing can be final in this matter, and that he can only hope to sketch the present aspect of the subject, and to point the way to new developments." The object of this work is to give in a connected form a summary of the development of the vegetable kingdom in geologic time. There is an introductory chapter giving preliminary ideas of geological chronology and of the classification of plants, and the succeeding chapters range through the various eras, concluding with a statement of general laws of origin and migration of plants, and the relation of recent and fossil floras. We quote an interesting paragraph from the concluding pages: "What we have learned respecting this wonderful history has served strangely to change some of our preconceived ideas. We must now be prepared to admit that an Eden can be planted even in Spitzbergen, that there are possibilities in this old earth of ours which its present condition does not reveal to us; that the present state of the world is by no means the best possible in relation to climate and vegetation, that there have been and might be again conditions which would convert the ice-clad arctic regions into blooming paradises, and which at the same time would moderate the fervent heat of the tropics. We are accustomed to say that nothing is impossible with God; but how little have we known of the gigantic possibilities which lie hidden under some of the most common of His natural laws."

Mr. Henslow is an English botanist of distinction, and presents us in his treatise\* with some original discoveries and theories connected with the morphology of plants and flowers. After giving in a short preface a survey of the opinions and discoveries on the subject, he states that his object here is to endeavor to refer every part of the structures of flowers to some one or more definite causes arising from the environment taken in its widest sense. In short, he deals with the "why" and the "wherefore" of the differences and peculiarities of form in the floral world. The work contains a vast amount of information, and botanists everywhere will regard it as an important contribution to the literature of the science. The author believes that the entire floral world has come into being as the result of the responsive action of the protoplasm through the "irritations set up by the weights, pressures, thrusts, tensions, etc., of the insect visitors." How he deals with this subject, and conducts the reader through the processes of his reasoning, we have not space to dwell upon. He very modestly, however, offers his reasonings and conclusions as suggestive only.

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#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

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##### *D. Appleton & Co.*

Orthodox. A Tale. Dorothea Gerard.

Hints About Men's Dress. By a New York Clubman.

How She Did It; or Comfort on \$150 a Year. Mary Cruger.

On the Senses, Instincts, and Intelligence of Animals. With special reference to Insects. Sir John Lubbock, Bart.

The Secret of Fontaine-La-Croix. Margaret Field.

\*"The Origin of Floral Structures, through Insect and Other Agencies." By the Rev. George Henslow. D. Appleton & Co.